OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

27 FEB 1981

Ref: 81-DFOI-127

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This in in further response to your January 23, 1981 Freedom of Information request for information on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

All relevant records located within the Office of the Secretary of Defense have been reviewed. Those records which can be released in their entirety are enclosed. Also enclosed are three documents, an undated listing of Navy officers present at the Kennedy autopsy, an undated roster of Navy enlisted persons present at the autopsy, and a March 13, 1978 letter from the Surgeon General of the Navy to those persons involved in the autoposy. Social Security Account Numbers and/or home addresses for these individuals have been deleted from these three documents in order to prevent an unwarranted invasion of privacy. Accordingly, the excised information is denied under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6).

Eight documents identified in an enclosed listing are being denied in their entirety. These documents are handwritten notes, memoranda, and drafts which contain internal staff opinion, suggestions, advice, and other predecisional material. Accordingly, these documents are denied under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5).

The Initial Denial Authority for the above information is Mr. David O. Cooke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration).

You have the right to appeal the decision to deny this information. Any such appeal should offer justification for reversal of the initial denial and should be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review, Room 2C757, Pentagon, Washington, D. C. 20301.

In the course of our search, we identified a number of documents originated by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. These documents remain under Congressional control and are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

A list of these documents is enclosed should you wish to seek their release from the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515.

Due to the minimum costs incurred in processing your request, all charges are waived in this instance.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Hinkle
Director, Freedom of Information
for and Security Review

Enclosures